## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

	:
LAUREN BAKER,	:

Plaintiff,

v. : Civil Action No.:

LENNAR CORPORATION, and LENNAR REALTY, INC.,

Defendants,

1:24-cv-23766-RNS

### FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Lauren Baker ("Baker" or "Plaintiff"), brings this complaint in the United States

District Court for the Southern District of Florida against LENNAR CORPORATION ("Lennar

Corporation"), and LENNAR REALTY, INC. ("Lennar Realty") (together "Defendants"),

alleging as follows:

### THE PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff Lauren Baker is an experienced commercial photographer, specializing in landscapes and nature photography. Baker resides in San Antonio, Florida.
- 2. Lennar Corporation is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida with its principal place of business located in Miami, Florida. Defendant's agent for service of process is CT Corporation System, 1200 South Pine Island Road, Plantation, Florida, 33324.
- 3. Lennar Realty is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida with its principal place of business located in Miami, Florida. Defendant's agent for

service of process is Corporate Creations Network Inc., 801 U.S. Highway 1, North Palm Beach, Florida 33408.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).
- 5. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants have maintained sufficient minimum contacts with the State of Florida and as a result the exercise of personal jurisdiction over Defendants by this Court would not offend traditional notices of fair play and substantial justice.
- 6. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a) because Defendants or their agent(s) reside or may be found in this district: "A defendant 'may be found' in a district in which he could be served with process; that is, in a district which may assert personal jurisdiction over the defendant."

# **FACTS**

# I. The Photographs at Issue in this Lawsuit

7. On May 27, 2023, Lauren Baker captured the photographs, "IMG\_8841," "IMG\_8840," "IMG\_8839," "IMG\_8838," "IMG\_8837," "IMG\_8836," "IMG\_8835," ("Copyrighted Photographs") copies of which are exhibited below:















- 8. Copyrighted Photographs were registered by Lauren Baker with the United States Copyright Office on April 29, 2024 (Registration No.: VA 2-407-955).
- 9. For all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff has been the author and exclusive copyright holder of all copyright rights in and to Copyrighted Photographs. As such, Plaintiff is entitled to institute and maintain this action for copyright infringement. See 17 U.S.C. § 501(b).

### II. Defendants' Unlawful Activities

- 10. Beginning on or about June 1, 2023, Defendants copied, posted, or caused to be posted Copyrighted Photographs to the Stellar MLS (Multiple Listing Service) website, <a href="https://www.stellar.mlsmatrix.com/matrix">www.stellar.mlsmatrix.com/matrix</a> ("MLS Infringements"), for the following properties for rent or sale in San Antonio, Florida 33576:
  - 10292 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
  - 10334 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
  - 10336 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
  - 10330 Honey Hammock Way
  - 10334 Honey Hammock Way
  - 10958 Gable Dig Loop
  - 10371 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way

- 11012 Gable Dig Loop
- 10998 Gable Dig Loop
- 10337 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
- 10288 Honey Hammock Way
- 10992 Gable Dig Loop
- 10335 Honey Hammock Way
- 10894 Gable Dig Loop
- 10874 Gable Dig Loop
- 10856 Gable Dig Loop
- 11545 Radiant Shore Loop
- 32126 Pop Ash Place
- 11442 Radiant Shore Loop
- 32131 Pop Ash Place
- 10347 Honey Hammock Way
- 11672 Radiant Shore Loop
- 11650 Radiant Shore Loop
- 11677 Radiant Shore Loop
- 10694 Tupper Cay Drive
- 11570 Radiant Shore Loop
- 32325 Wishing Haven Drive
- 10761 Tupper Cay Drive
- 32324 Wishing Haven Drive
- 10675 Tupper Cay Drive
- 11385 Linden Depot Road
- 32301 Wishing Haven Drive
- 10631 Tupper Cay Drive
- 11484 Radiant Shore Loop
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- 11377 Linden Depot Road
- 11457 Linden Depot Road
- 11595 Radiant Shore Loop
- 11498 Radiant Shore Loop
- 10742 Tupper Cay Drive
- 11437 Linden Depot Road
- 11401 Linden Depot Road
- 32310 Wishing Haven Drive
- 11445 Linden Depot Road
- 11478 Linden Depot Road

- 32338 Cannon Rush Drive
- 10342 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
- 10352 Honey Hammock Way
- 10356 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
- 10374 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
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- 10338 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
- 10320 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
- 10375 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
- 10356 Honey Hammock Way
- 10365 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
- 10360 Honey Hammock Way
- 10346 Honey Hammock Way
- 10379 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
- 10387 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
- 32038 Powderpuff Mimosa Drive
- 11011 Gable Dig Loop
- 10948 Gable Dig Loop
- 11016 Gable Dig Loop
- 32220 Cannon Rush Drive
- 10954 Gable Dig Loop
- 11008 Gable Dig Loop
- 32164 Powderpuff Mimosa Drive
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- 10315 Honey Hammock Way
- 11629 Radiant Shore Loop
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- 10428 Lavender Aster Trail
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- 32135 Pop Ash Place
- 10321 Honey Hammock Way
- 10341 Honey Hammock Way
- 10359 Honey Hammock Way
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- 11708 Radiant Shore Loop
- 32100 Powderpuff Mimosa Drive
- 11738 Radiant Shore Loop
- 11742 Radiant Shore Loop
- 11265 Linden Depot Road
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- 11429 Linden Depot Road
- 11415 Linden Depot Road
- 11571 Radiant Shore Loop
- 11530 Radiant Shore Loop
- 10683 Tupper Cay Drive
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- 11686 Radiant Shore Loop
- 11642 Radiant Shore Loop
- 11607 Radiant Shore Loop
- 11721 Radiant Shore Loop
- 11524 Radiant Shore Loop
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- 11714 Radiant Shore Loop
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- 11384 Linden Depot Road
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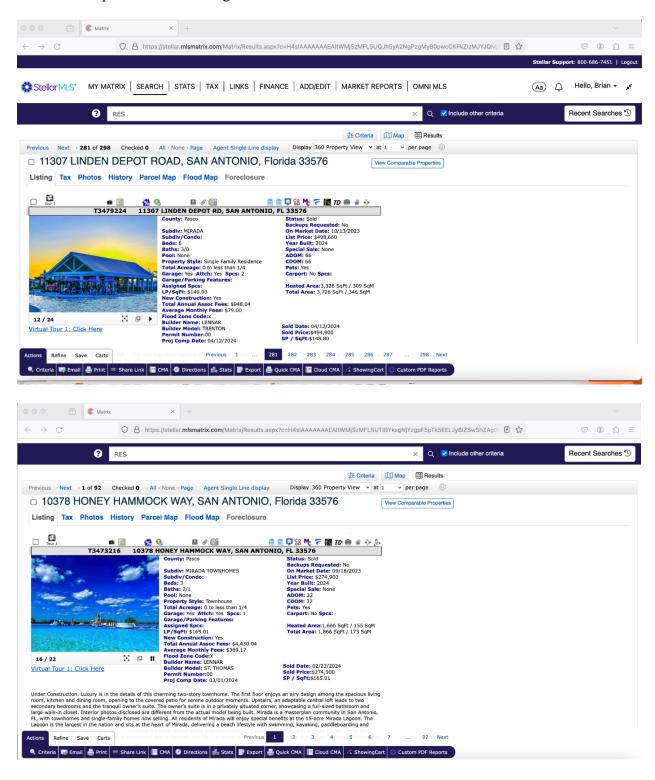
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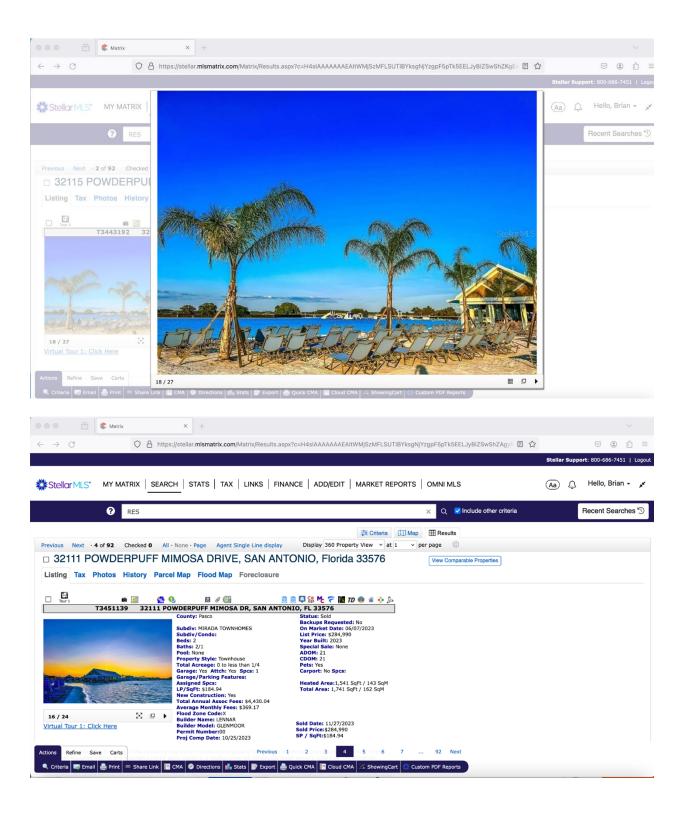
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- 11022 Radiant Shore Loop

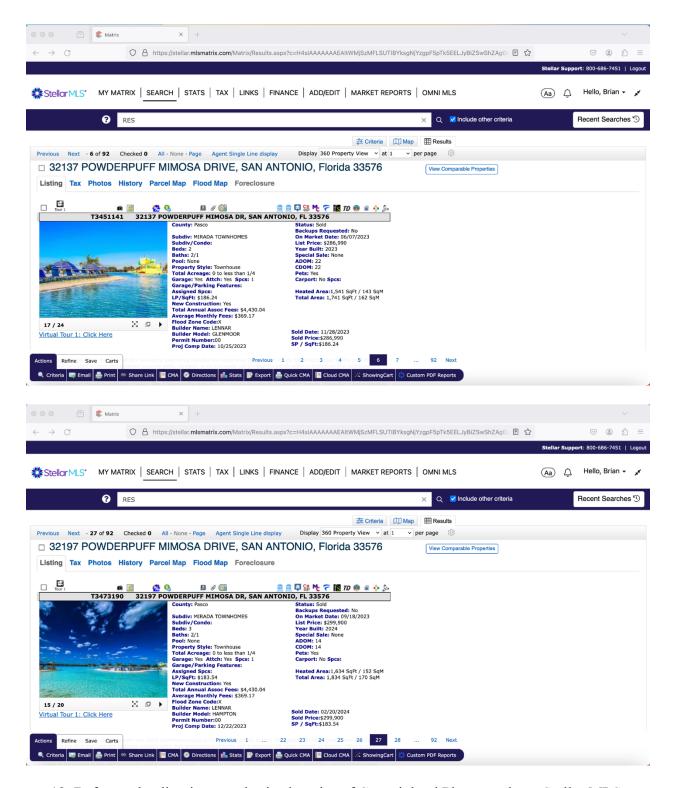
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- 10534 Tupper Cay Drive
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- 10518 Gable Dig Loop
- 32086 Hawthorne Cottage Place
- 10639 Tupper Cay Drive
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11. Examples of MLS Infringements are illustrated below:







12. Before uploading its unauthorized copies of Copyrighted Photographs to Stellar MLS, Defendants falsely attested they were the author of, copyright holder of, or were properly licensed to upload Copyrighted Photographs.

13. Before uploading its unauthorized copies of Copyrighted Photographs to Stellar MLS, Defendants falsely attested to the following: "By submitting content and/or images, you are confirming that you are the content creator, own the copyright to or have proper licensure to upload to Stellar MLS:"

Virtually Staged photos must have "virtually staged" in the description of the photo. To add a description click on the photo then on Edit Description. Also make sure that the Virtually Staged Y/N box has a check next to the public remarks for virtually staged photos.

By submitting content and/or images, you are confirming that you are the content creator, own the copyright to or have proper licensure to upload to Stellar MLS.

Note: Primary selected photo will need to be Property, Centric. Once a listing is off-market, the primary image will remain public.

- 14. Beginning on or about June 1, 2023, Defendants copied, posted, or caused to be posted Copyrighted Photographs to Zillow ("Zillow Infringements"), <a href="www.zillow.com">www.zillow.com</a>, for the following property listings in San Antonio, Florida 33576:
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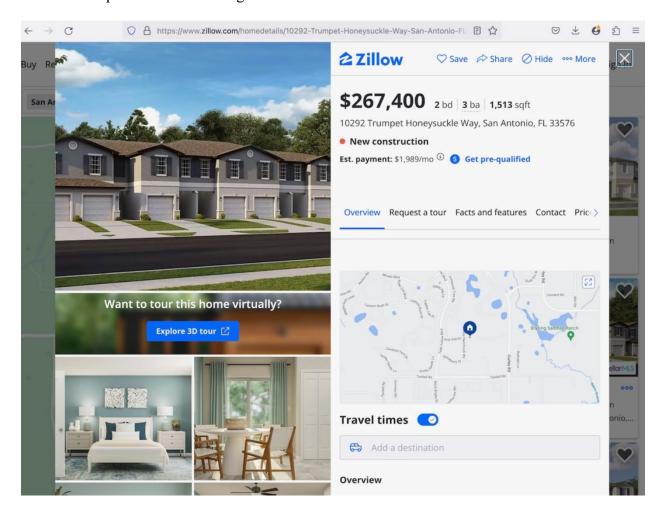
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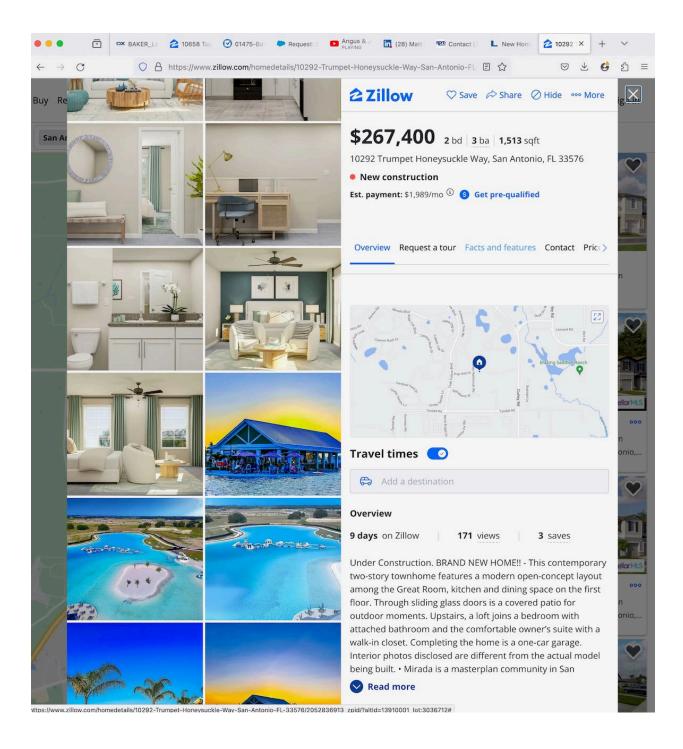
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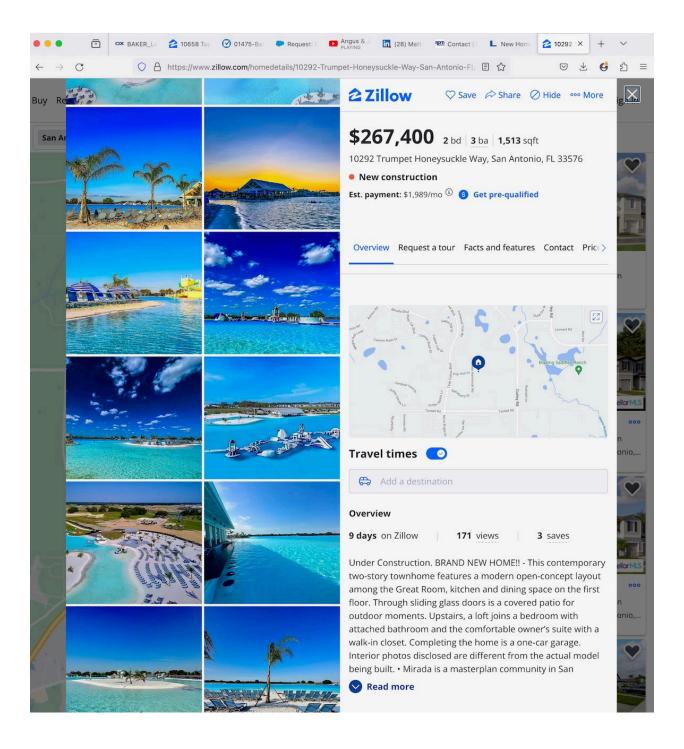
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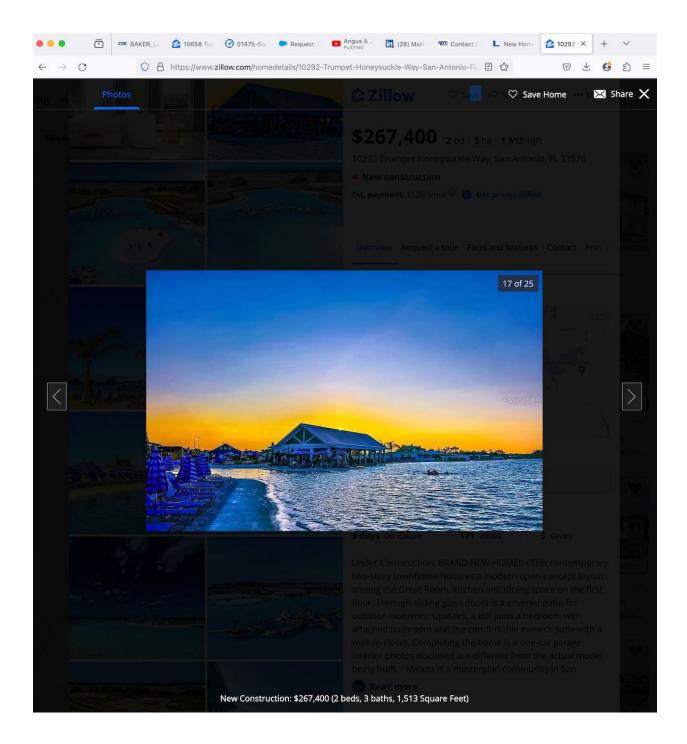
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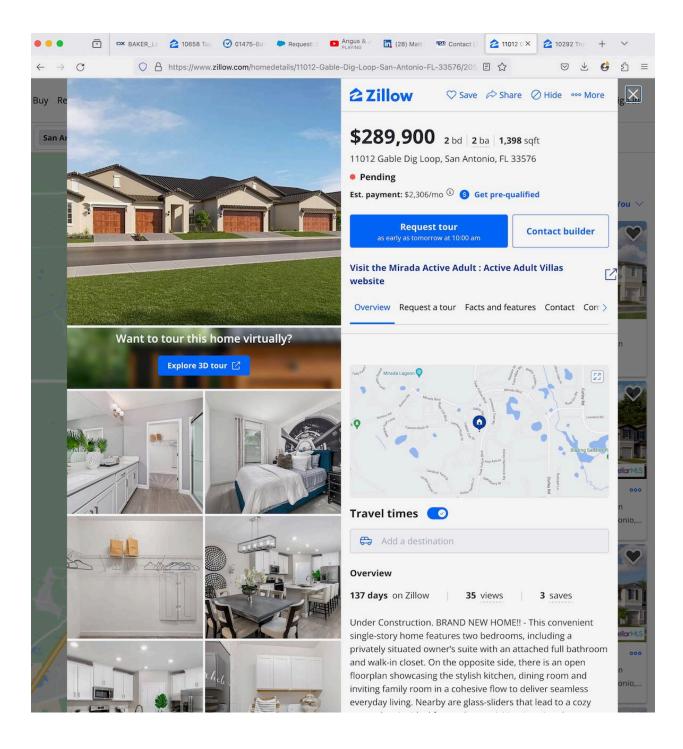
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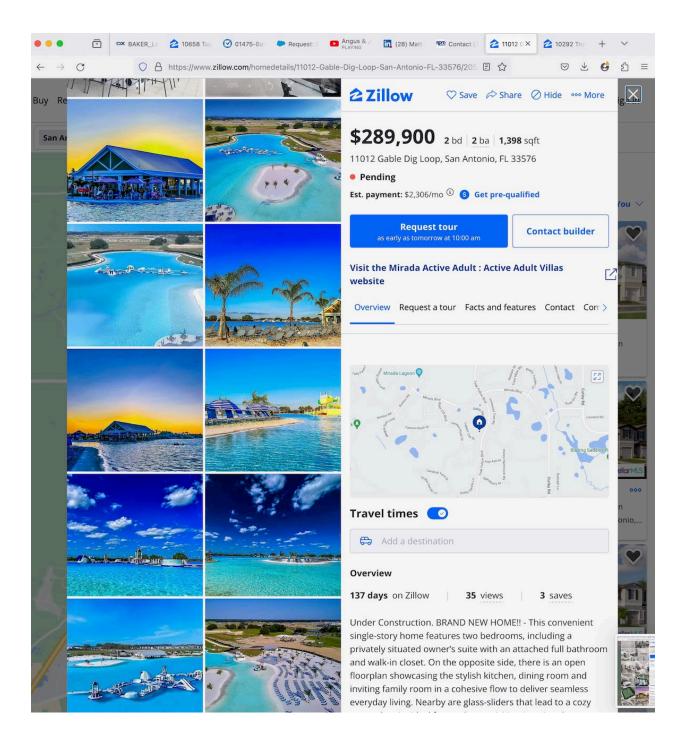


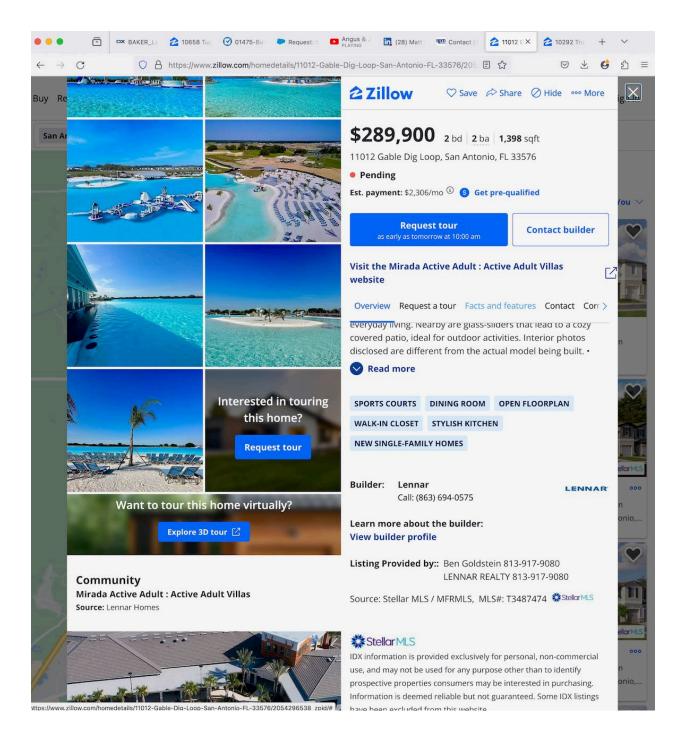


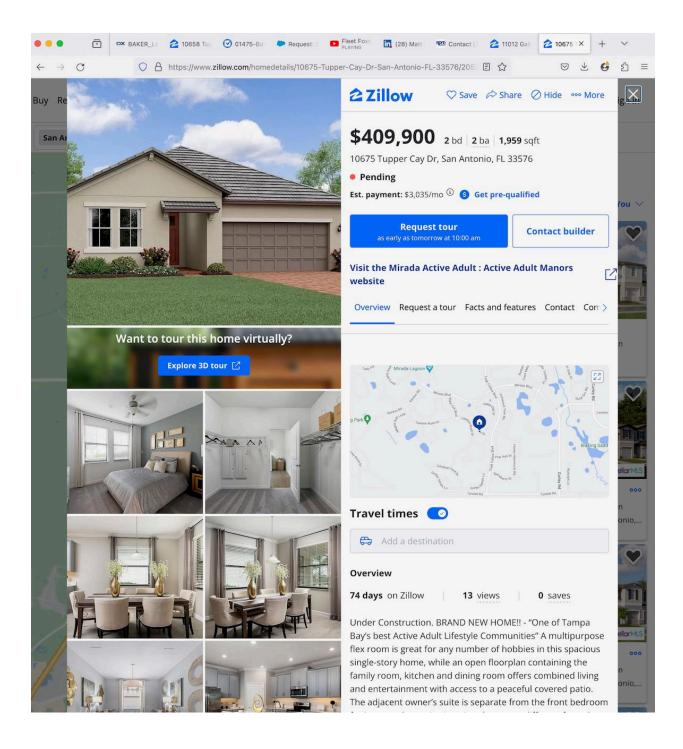


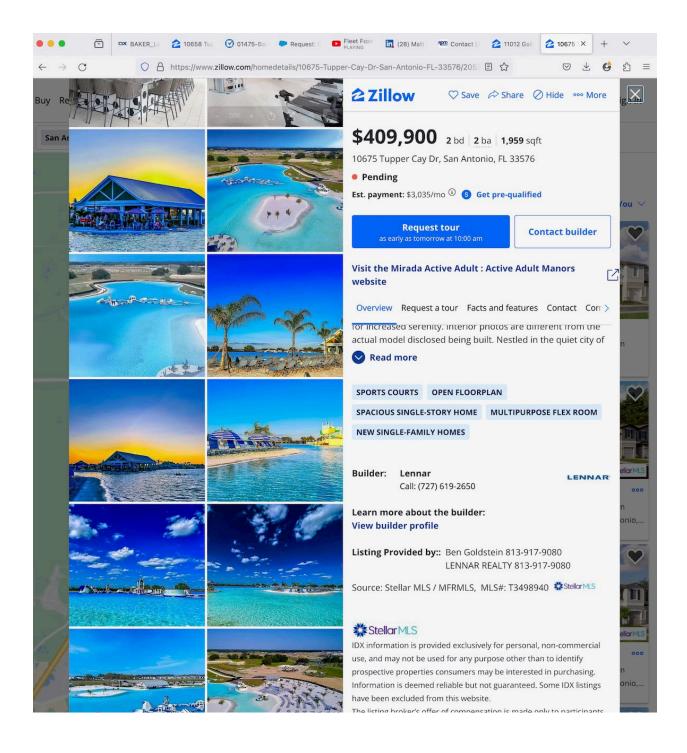


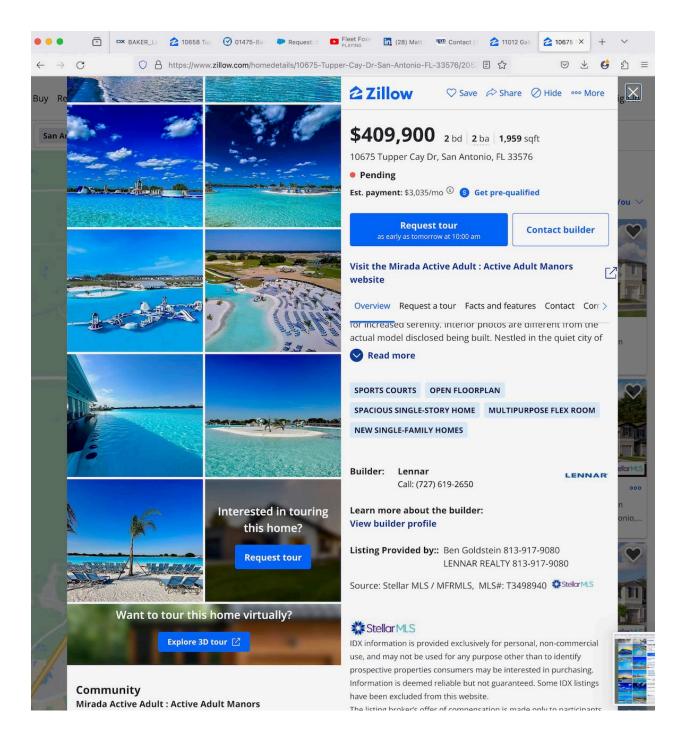


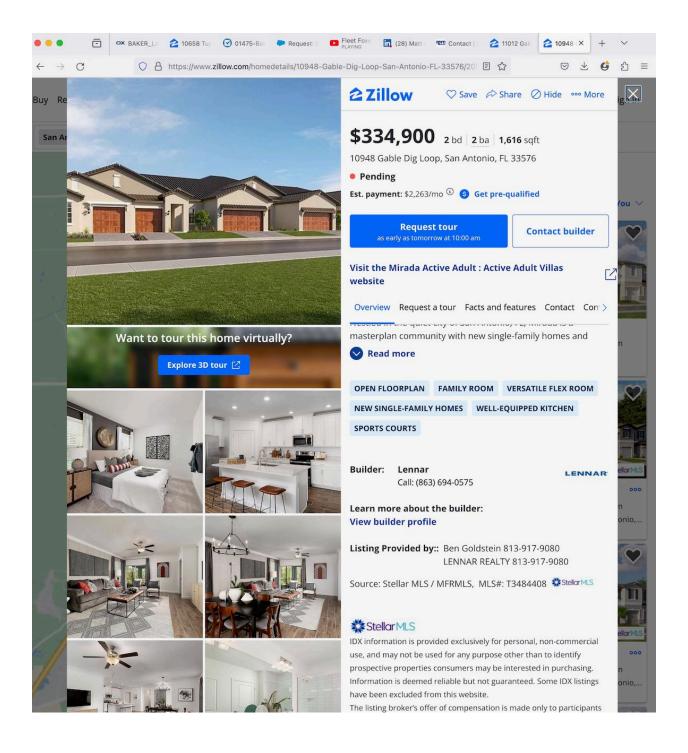


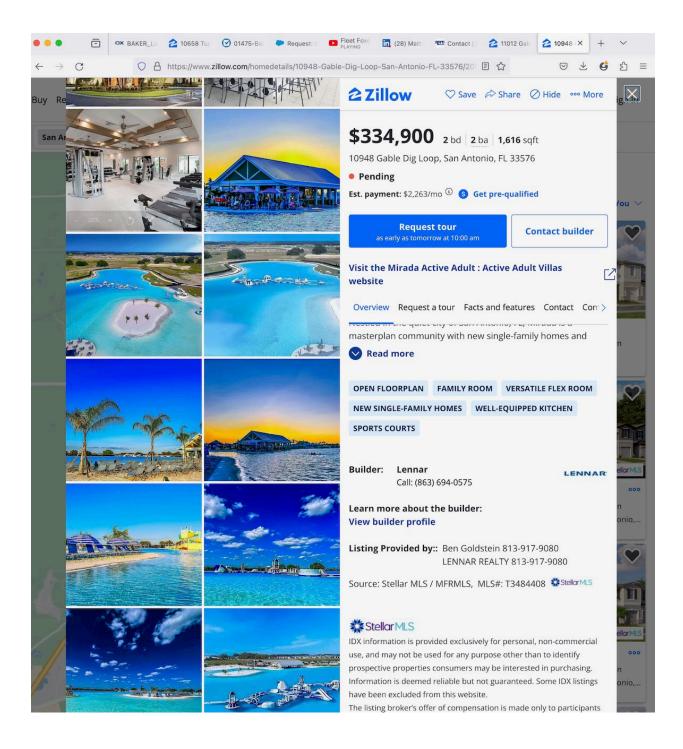


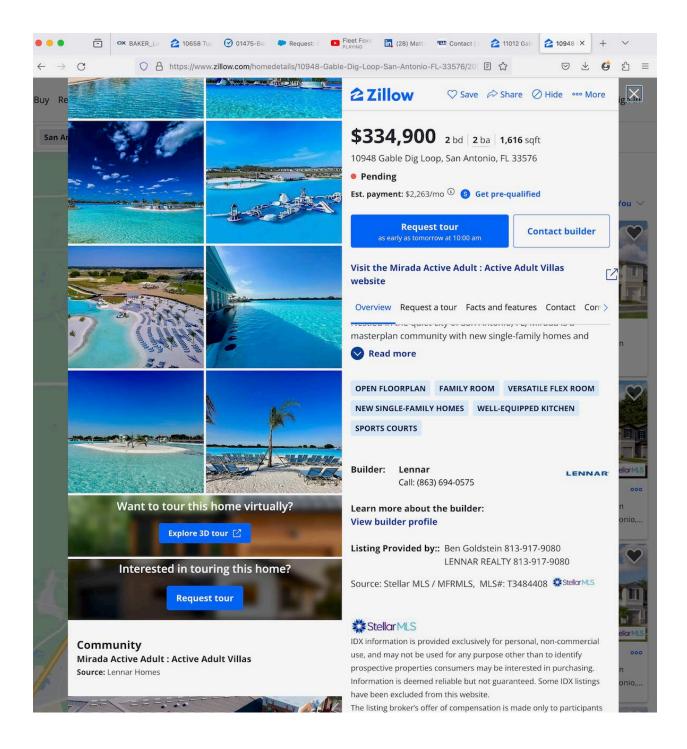












16. Zillow Infringements included the following information: "Builder: Lennar, Call: (863) 694-0575," Listing Provided by: Ben Goldstein 813-917-9080, LENNAR REALTY 813-917-9080," and "Source: Stellar MLS / MFRMLS, MLS# T3484408."

- 17. Defendants are not and have never been licensed to use or display Copyrighted Photographs. Defendants never contacted Plaintiff to seek permission to use Copyrighted Photographs in connection with its website or for any other purpose.
- 18. Upon information and belief, Defendants located copies of Copyrighted Photographs on the internet and, rather than contact Plaintiff to secure licenses, simply copied Copyrighted Photographs for its own commercial use.
- 19. Plaintiff first discovered Defendants' unauthorized use/display of Copyrighted
  Photographs on or about March 6, 2024. Following Plaintiff's discovery, Plaintiff notified
  Defendants in writing of such unauthorized use. To date, Plaintiff has been unable to negotiate a reasonable license for the past infringement of Copyrighted Photographs.

## **COUNT I: COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

- 20. Plaintiff incorporates herein by this reference each and every allegation contained in each paragraph above.
- 21. Copyrighted Photographs are original works of authorship, embodying copyrightable subject matter, and therefore subject to the full protection of the United States copyright laws (17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.).
- 22. Lauren Baker owns a valid copyright in Copyrighted Photographs, having registered Copyrighted Photographs with the Register of Copyrights.
- 23. Plaintiff has standing to bring this lawsuit and assert the claim(s) herein as it has sufficient rights, title, and interest to such copyright.
- 24. Defendants reproduced, distributed, and publicly displayed Copyrighted Photographs without authorization from Plaintiff.

- 25. By its actions, Defendants infringed and violated Plaintiff's exclusive rights in violation of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 501, by reproducing, distributing, and publicly displaying Copyrighted Photographs for its own commercial purposes.
- 26. Defendants' infringement was willful as it acted with actual knowledge or reckless disregard for whether its conduct infringed upon Plaintiff's copyright.
  - 27. Plaintiff has been damaged as a direct and proximate result of Defendants' infringement.
- 28. Plaintiff is entitled to recover its actual damages resulting from Defendants' unauthorized use of Copyrighted Photographs and, at Plaintiff's election (pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(b)), Plaintiff is entitled to recover damages based on a disgorgement of Defendants' profits from infringement of Copyrighted Photographs, which amounts shall be proven at trial.
- 29. Alternatively, to the extent infringement by Defendants of Copyrighted Photographs occurred post-registration or within the three (3) month period between first publication and registration, and at Plaintiff's election, Plaintiff is entitled to statutory damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c), in such amount as deemed proper by the Court.
- 30. To the extent infringement by Defendants of Copyrighted Photographs occurred post-registration or within the three (3) month-period between first publication and registration, Plaintiff is further entitled to recover its costs and attorneys' fees as a result of Defendants' conduct pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505 for such infringement of the corresponding Copyrighted Photographs.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants as follows:

- a. A declaration that Defendants have infringed Plaintiff's copyrights in Copyrighted
   Photographs;
- b. A declaration that such infringement is willful (to the extent applicable);
- c. An award of actual damages and disgorgement of profits as the Court deems proper or, at Plaintiff's election (to the extent applicable), an award of statutory damages for willful infringement up to \$150,000.00 for infringement of each photograph comprising the Work.
- d. Awarding Plaintiff its costs and (if applicable) reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 17
   U.S.C. § 505;
- e. Awarding Plaintiff interest, including prejudgment interest, on the foregoing amounts;
- f. Permanently enjoining Defendants, their employees, agents, officers, directors, attorneys, successors, affiliates, subsidiaries, and assigns, and all those in active concert and participation with Defendants, from directly or indirectly infringing Plaintiff's copyrights or continuing to display, transfer, advertise, reproduce, or otherwise market Copyrighted Photographs or to participate or assist in any such activity; and
- g. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

### **JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all claims for which there is a right to jury

trial.

Dated: November 4, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Janelle A. Weber
Janelle A. Weber
Florida Bar No. 17630
Manta Law
4039 Gunn Highway
Tampa, FL 33618
813-982-3363, Telephone
jweber@mantalaw.com
Counsel for Plaintiff

-and-

/s/ David C. Deal
David C. Deal
VA Bar No. 86005
The Law Office of David C. Deal, P.L.C.
117 4<sup>th</sup> Street NE
Charlottesville, VA 22902
434-233-2727, Telephone
david@daviddeal.com
Counsel for Plaintiff

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on November 4, 2024, I electronically filed the foregoing using CM/ECF, which will serve by email all counsel of record, including:

Eleanor M. Yost David R. Wright CARLTON FIELDS, P.A. 4221 W. Boy Scout Blvd., Ste. 1000 Tampa, FL 33607 eyost@carltonfields.com dwright@carltonfields.com

/s/ Janelle A. Weber
Janelle A. Weber